

# Imperial College Union Council Report

Nick Burstow, Deputy President (Education)

Please find below my report for February's Union Council. I have included the final bullet point of each section from my last Council report to set the scene:

## Goals:

### Year 1 Undergraduate Coursework Feedback Audit

- *Final point from last report: Target for audit completion is end of January/early February ready for presentation at February's Learning & Teaching Committee*
- All data collection has been completed and I have ended the audit cycle
- Audit write up is nearly complete!
- I have written the introduction, methods and first half of results sections
- I am on course to finish the audit write up this week
- I will present the completed audit at February's *Learning & Teaching Committee*

### *StudentShapers* (confirmed title)

- *From last report: I am on the interview panel for the position of StudentShapers director. Interviews will be held at the end of this month*
- Interviews have been completed
- We have now hired a director for the *StudentShapers* scheme!
- We will be meeting in March/April when the director begins their post to discuss further plans

### Postgraduate Timetabling

- *From last report: Luke and I are awaiting have been in touch with the Head of Timetabling and have been told the data will be sent to us by the end of this week (by 19/01)*
- There were delays with the data
- I was sent the latest, finalised data on Friday (05/02)
- I am meeting with the Head of Timetabling to discuss the results on Wednesday (07/02)
- Depending on the outcome of these discussions, Luke and I are planning on surveying PGT students in order to keep this subject on the College's agenda

## Operations:

The operational tasks of note are listed below:

### NSS Response

- *From last report: The NSS action plan will be discussed at January's\*<sup>1</sup> Learning & Teaching Committee, with a view to return the document to Provost Board*
- The action plan was discussed at January's *Learning & Teaching Committee*
- No issues were raised
- It is my understanding that the action plan will be returned to Provost Board
- I have made enquiries to confirm this but am awaiting a definitive answer (which I should have by the end of this week)

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<sup>1</sup> \*I mistakenly wrote February in last month's report

## PRES Response

- *From last report: The GSU President and I met with the Director of the Graduate School on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the remaining recommendations*
- We reviewed the actions from the first eight recommendations
- The GSU President and I surveyed all postgraduate research students who have recently submitted their ESA/LSRs to determine the situation around Recommendation #2
- The survey had a high response rate and the vast majority of students (c.90%) *had* indeed had follow-up discussions with their supervisors after completing ESA/LSRs
- We then discussed and assigned actions to the next three recommendations
- We will be discussing the remaining recommendations at our next meeting, scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> March
- Because of the Union Council meeting schedule, I will inform you of the outcomes of these discussions at May's Union Council (15/05)

## Examinations timetabling policy – completed

- *From last report: The timetabling team will be presenting their report to Provost Board this month*
- **Completed – the interim timetabling policy was approved**

## Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs)

- *From last report: Our annual SACAs campaign has come around once again!*
- This year I have decided to focus communications in a defined three-week campaigning period – between Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February
- We revamped the website to make nominating easier than ever
- The Constituent Union Presidents and Felix have helped with publicity
- These steps have worked, as we have achieved the **highest ever number of nominations**
- I will be able to tell you the final total of nominations at February's Union Council!

## Student involvement in the curriculum review

- At the most recent ERB (18/01), Alan Spivey, Assistant Provost (Learning & Teaching), spoke with the academic reps about the curriculum review
- In short, every department is required to review their curriculum as part of the *Learning & Teaching Strategy*, with the view of making more space within students' curricula in order to reduce the amount of work many students feel burdened by
- While the need for student participation in this process is outlined in the *Learning & Teaching Strategy*, there is no formal guidance to advise departments in this endeavour
- I worked with the reps to develop a framework advising departments on how to work in partnership with students in the process of reviewing their curricula
- I will likely be presenting this framework at February's *Learning & Teaching Committee*, but am awaiting advice from the Vice Provost (Education) on where to present this document

I am happy to answer any specific questions on my report and work on anything you think is missing, just let me know, Nick.

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